

William E. Davis House  
North side of Belfast Road  
Not accessible  
Date: 1850-1860

The William E. Davis House is a three story frame house covered with German siding dating from 1850-1860. Most of the original trim includes the stair rail, raked door, window trim, six-panel doors, and grained finish on the woodwork. The house was originally built by Evan Davis, who owned and operated a foundry and plow factory nearby, on a tract of land known as Conception Valley.

North of the house is a two story stone smokehouse with a bell still standing in place in the bellfry. The other original outbuildings which typify rural life at the time include a stone privy, a stone walled grainery, a frame bank barn and a small stone gable-roofed dairy house inside the barnyard.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

William E. Davis House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

North side of Belfast Road near Joyce Lane

CITY, TOWN

Butler

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES RESTRICTED☐ YES UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William E. Davis

Telephone #: 472-2368

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Belfast Road

CITY, TOWN

Sparks

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md. 21152

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 48 (Will book)

Folio #: 361

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Washington Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The principal dwelling on the Davis Farm is a three storey frame house, five bays in length across its south front with a coeval north wing extending behind its west end, four bays in length, its height equal to that of the main house; a small one storey shed-roofed stone wing was added to the east side of the rear wing as a buttery; and a small two storey shed-roofed wing was added in the corner formed by the main house and rear wing for bathrooms. The house dates from 1850-1860.

A one-storey porch, three bays in length, shelters the principal entrance centered on the south front and a similar porch shelters a secondary entrance and flanking windows on the west side of the rear wing. The principal entrance consists of double doors with sidelights and transom. The tripartite motif is repeated in the central windows of the second and third storeys, where 6/6 windows are flanked by 2/2's, the latter nearly obscured by the louvred blinds. Other windows throughout the structure are 6/6 with narrow beaded frames and louvred blinds; window heights diminish in each storey. Exterior walls are covered with German siding. An interior chimney of brick rises from each gable of the main house and a third rises between the two rooms of the rear wing.

Internally a central hall is flanked by a single room on each side and the rear wing consists of two rooms. Upper floor plans are similar to the first but the wing rooms are further subdivided for

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	Unknown	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
----------------	---------	-------------------	---------

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house, located on the north side of Belfast Road, near the village of Butler, was erected during the third quarter of the nineteenth century by Evan Davis, grandfather of the present owner. The crossroads where it stands were called Davisville and were the site of a foundry and plow factory (q.v.) operated by the Davis family until about 1895. The tract of land occupied by this dwelling was known as Conception Valley and much of the original farm remains untouched. Changes to the house have been minimal; even the period artificial graining remains on most interior woodwork, making this an outstanding example of mid-19th century domestic architecture.

The many original outbuildings which remain provide an authentic picture of early rural life when such buildings were required. The privy is the rarest of all early outbuildings and this example is a particularly substantial one, rendered in stone. The grainery, with its buttressed stone walls supporting a framed superstructure, is an example of a distinctive local style.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Baltimore County Tax Assessments: 1852, 1876, 1896.

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. (Philadelphia, 1877).

(See Continuation #3)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 122 A more or less

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Catharine F. Black and James T. Wollor, Jr. AIA

ORGANIZATION

For Valleys Historical District Project

DATE

September 1976

STREET & NUMBER

1114 Bellemore Road

TELEPHONE

323-3798

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Continuation Sheet #1

Question #7 Continued

small bedrooms. Two enclosed secondary stairs are in the rear wing. Most original trim and finishes remain including the stair rail, its turned newels and balusters, the raked door and window trim with broad ogee backband, the six-panel doors with loose mouldings, the mantels with round columns supporting a paneled frieze, and the grained finish on most of the woodwork.

West of the dwelling is a set of stone steps to a mounting block.

North of the house is a two storey stone smoke house; above the south gable end of the roof is a belfry, its bell still in place. Near the ground, west of the door which is centered in the south end, is an iron door to a firebox; a flue within the stone walls rises to discharge just below the ground storey's ceiling.

North of the house is a stone privy with two rooms; doors are in its north and south gable ends near the easterly corners and the seats are against the west wall. A small louvred window is in each side wall and a long cleanout opening is beneath the seats. The larger southerly room is said to have served the ladies, the smaller northerly one the gentlemen.

Southwest of the house is a stone-walled grainery. Its south wall has three stone buttresses; on its north side, another bay buttresses the structure, its roof a continuation of the principal roof, its north wall another stone wall. The framed roof structure and gable cantilevers over the east end, sheltering a balcony (and probably a former exterior stair to the second floor). The ground floor is open at either end as a driveway.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

## Continuation Sheet #2

Question #7 Continued

A frame bank barn is constructed of circular-sawn material; its stone-walled ground storey has doors and windows to the stalls in its south wall, sheltered by the taller loft storey which extends over it. A stone-walled shed or shop with a shed roof stands just east of the barn; its walls probably predate its present form. A stone wall surrounds the barnyard to the south.

Within the barnyard is a small stone gable-roofed dairy house. Its log rafters are mitered at the ridge; interior walls are whitewashed. A door and a tiny window are in its east gable end and a small window is in its west end and south side. The stone walls are on the verge of collapse. The dairy house is said to have been supplied with water from a big spring some distance to the east by way of a 3 inch early cast iron pipe.

A framed grainery stands west of the stone-walled grainery. The driveway in the ground storey is flanked by enclosed spaces, on the south a corn crib, on the north a wagon shed. Its hewn timbers are joined with pegged mortise-and-tenon. Exterior walls are covered with vertical boarding and a 6/6 window is high in the east gable.

BA-406

William E. Davis House  
Valleys Historical District

Continuation Sheet #3

Question #9 Continued

Sidney, J.C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland.  
(Baltimore, 1850).

Interview with Mr. William E. Davis (May, 1976).

WATERASE BOND  
SOUTHWORTH CO. U.S.A.  
25% COTTON FIBER